

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 60TH ECOSOC--DECADE FOR WOMEN

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS STATEMENT MADE BY US REP (HUTAR)
AT A.M. SESSION, APRIL 27, ON THE DECADE FOR WOMEN.

QUOTE THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WISHES TO CONGRATULATE
YOU ON YOUR ELECTION, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND ALSO THE VICE
CHAIRMAN SERVING WITH YOU, THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES
FROM DENMARK AND BANGLADESH.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975 MARKED THE YEAR WHEN
THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT WAS REVEALED AS A GLOBAL FORCE FOR CHANGE.

NOW, THE DECADE FOR WOMEN WILL CONTINUE TO GENERATE
POSITIVE CHANGE FOR WOMEN AND MEN IN EVERY NATION OF THE WORLD.
IT OPENS THE WAY FOR FRESH INITIATIVES TO ABOLISH DIS-
CRIMINATORY PRACTICES BASED ON SEX SO THAT THE UNTAPPED
POTENTIAL OF WOMEN CAN BE REALIZED IN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP
WITH MEN.

THE DECADE FOR WOMEN WILL ENRICH DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
AND WILL ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR AND THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION.

DURING THE PAST YEAR THE UNITED STATES HAS GIVEN HIGH
PRIORITY TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION THROUGH
THE WORK OF THE US NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE
OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. THE COMMISSION, CREATED BY
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EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT IN JANUARY 1975, IS COMPOSED

OF 35 PRIVATE CITIZENS AND FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION HAS HEARD TESTIMONY FROM GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS AND INITIATED STUDIES AND SURVEYS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN A SERIES OF ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS COVER SUCH AREAS AS DECISION-MAKING ROLES FOR WOMEN IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IN LEGISLATIVE BODIES, THE JUDICIARY AND IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AGENCIES. FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS COVER THE IMPACT OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN; WOMEN IN THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES; BUSINESS AND LABOR; EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN EMPLOYMENT AND FULL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HOMEMAKER.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMISSION WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 30, 1976.

TO INITIATE THE DECADE OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, THE NATIONAL COMMISSION WILL ORGANIZE AND CONVENE STATE AND REGIONAL WOMEN'S MEETINGS WHICH WILL CULMINATE IN A NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT THE END OF 1977.

BRIEFLY, THE PURPOSES OF THE CONFERENCES WILL BE TO ASSESS PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD INSURING EQUALITY FOR WOMEN; TO SET GOALS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ANY REMAINING BARRIERS TO THE FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN ALL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN LIFE, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF WORLD PEACE.

NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO TURN TO THE SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH ARE BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

WE WISH TO COMMEND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL HELVI SIPILA AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR MARGARET BRUCE FOR THE PREPARATORY WORK AS REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS E/5772 AND E/5773. THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH CALL FOR CONTINUATION OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND ESTABLISHED FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

WE SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATE FROM PAKISTAN THAT THIS FUND BE USED PRIMARILY TO BENEFIT THE NEEDIEST AND LEAST PRIVILEGED WOMEN. WE BELIEVE THAT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE HELD TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM SO THAT THE BENEFITS FOR WOMEN CAN BE MAXIMIZED.

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THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER U.N. BODIES, SUCH AS UNDP, INDICATES THAT A FEW WELL CHOSEN PROJECTS REPRESENT A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF FUNDS THAN A LARGE NUMBER OF PROJECTS WHICH USE UP A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE BUDGET IN OVERHEAD COSTS CONNECTED WITH TRAVEL AND ADMINISTRATION.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE AND WILL BE SOMEWHAT COMPLEX. AS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED, SOME GOVERNMENTS MAY WISH TO CONTROL EXPENDITURES OF THESE FUNDS BY EARMARKING

THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SPECIFIC USES, WHEREAS OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE UNDESIGNATED. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT PROJECT PROPOSALS SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY SOME U.N. INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY PRIOR TO COMMITMENT OF FUNDS IN ORDER TO ENSURE SOME INTERGOVERNMENTAL INPUT INTO PROGRAM DECISIONS. SUCH A PROCEDURE IS LACKING IN THE PROPOSAL BEFORE US. AS IS WELL KNOWN MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT ANY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR SUCH A REVIEW SHOULD COME OUT OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND ITSELF. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS FUND BE SOUNDLY MANAGED IF WE ARE TO ATTRACT CONTINUING GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SOURCES.

ADDITIONALLY, WE WISH TO UNDERScore THE POINT THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THIS VOLUNTARY FUND IN NO WAY IS INTENDED TO RELIEVE OTHER U.N. BODIES OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT THE NEEDS AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN ARE INTEGRATED INTO THEIR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS. OUR GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN RECEIVE A FAIR SHARE OF THE CURRENT RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS CURRENTLY EXISTING IN THE U.N.

WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE SYG'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOLICIT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO UNDERTAKE A PREPARATORY STUDY OF THE INSTITUTE, DRAWING ON FUNDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. IF CONTRIBUTIONS TO FINANCE THE INSTITUTION ARE SOLICITED, THE U.S. WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THIS REQUEST. THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH THE RESEARCH AND TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER CAPABILITIES ALREADY EXISTING WITHIN THE U.N. STRUCTURE. WE WOULD OPPOSE CREATION OF A NEW COUNCIL OR BOARD AS PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 17 OF DOCUMENT E/5772, TO PERFORM A SUPERVISORY FUNCTION. THIS BOARD WOULD BE A COSTLY AND UNNECESSARY ADDITION. THE PROPOSED FUNCTIONS OF THIS BOARD COULD WELL BE PERFORMED BY EXISTING U.N. BODIES.

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WE APPRECIATE THE CONCERN THAT THIS INSTITUTE DEVOTED TO RESEARCH AND TRAINING FOR WOMEN SHOULD NOT BE SUBMERGED OR LOST IN ANOTHER AGENCY OR BECOME SIMPLY AN INACTIVE OR IGNORED BUREAU OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION. WE BELIEVE, NONETHELESS, THAT THE INSTITUTE SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH OTHER U.N. BODIES AND SHOULD NOT BE AN ISOLATED ORGANIZATION.

WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING MUST BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ALL UN PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION TO CREATING NEW AND SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS, WE MUST MOBILIZE EXISTING CENTERS OF POWER TO SERVE THE GOALS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN.

IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE THAT MEN, AS WELL AS WOMEN, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TRAINING PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE. ALSO, WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT THE INSTITUTE CARRY

A TEN-YEAR MANDATE SUBJECT TO RE-EXAMINATION AND RENEWAL AT THE END OF THE DECADE IF FULL INTEGRATION HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED.

IN CONCLUSION, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE ECOSOC TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3520 (XXX), PARAGRAPH 16, WHICH REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ENSURE, IF POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES, THAT THE SECRETARIAT UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN'S QUESTIONS POSSESSES ADEQUATE PERSONNEL AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES IN ORDER TO DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION IN COOPERATION WITH ALL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. UNQUOTE
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